

---

By: **Delegates Burns, Aumann, Boteler, Cluster, DeBoy, Frank, Impallaria,  
Kach, McDonough, Minnick, Trueschler, and Weir**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2004

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

---

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Public Prayer - References to a Specific Deity**

3 FOR the purpose of providing that a person who prays in a public place may properly  
4 refer to a particular deity or religious leader; providing that a person who offers  
5 a prayer in a public place and makes reference to a particular deity or religious  
6 leader may not be criticized or censured by a State, county, or municipal official  
7 because of that reference; and generally relating to public prayer.

8 BY adding to  
9 Article - State Government  
10 Section 20-101 to be under the new title "Title 20. Public Prayer"  
11 Annotated Code of Maryland  
12 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2003 Supplement)

13 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
14 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

15 **Article - State Government**

16 TITLE 20.

17 PUBLIC PRAYER.

18 20-101.

19 (A) A PERSON WHO PRAYS IN A PUBLIC PLACE IN THE STATE OR IN A COUNTY  
20 OR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION OF THE STATE MAY PROPERLY REFER TO A  
21 PARTICULAR DEITY OR RELIGIOUS LEADER DURING THAT PERSON'S PRAYER.

22 (B) A PERSON WHO REFERS TO A PARTICULAR DEITY OR RELIGIOUS LEADER  
23 DURING A PRAYER OFFERED BY THAT PERSON IN A PUBLIC PLACE MAY NOT BE  
24 SUBJECT TO CRITICISM OR CENSURE BY A STATE, COUNTY, OR MUNICIPAL OFFICIAL  
25 BECAUSE OF THE REFERENCE TO A PARTICULAR DEITY OR RELIGIOUS LEADER.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
2 July 1, 2004.